

DATA TRACING IDENTIFIERS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for assigning an identifier to data processed through protocol layers in one or more computers over a network. A space for the identifier is reserved in the header of each protocol layer. The identifier is then generated at one of the protocol layers. In an embodiment, the identifier is generated at the lowest protocol layer of a computer that sends the data, i.e., the sending computer. Once the identifier is generated, it is then stored in the reserved space in the header.